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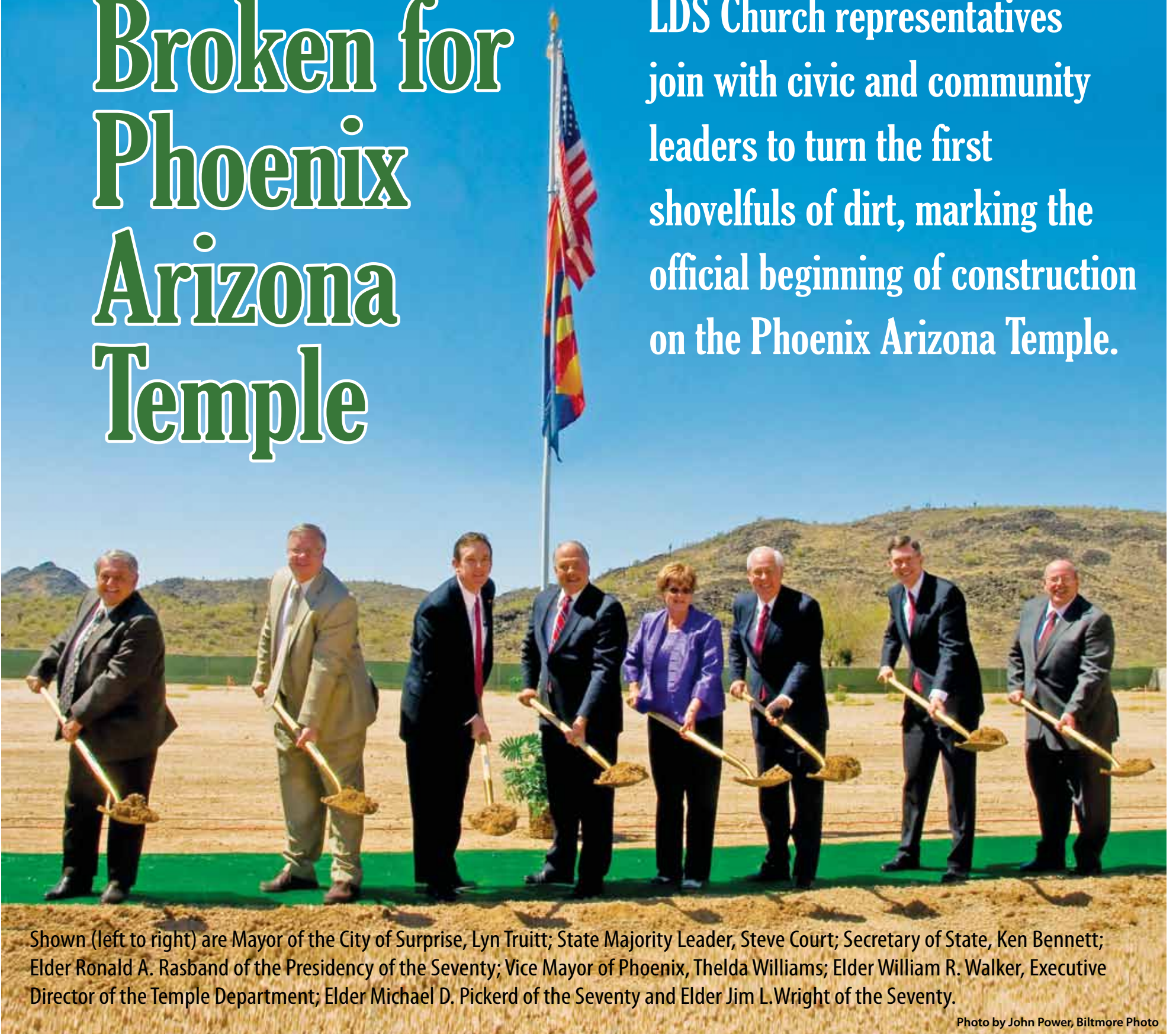
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Ground Broken for Phoenix Arizona Temple

LDS Church representatives
join with civic and community
leaders to turn the first
shovelfuls of dirt, marking the
official beginning of construction
on the Phoenix Arizona Temple.



Shown (left to right) are Mayor of the City of Surprise, Lyn Truitt; State Majority Leader, Steve Court; Secretary of State, Ken Bennett; Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy; Vice Mayor of Phoenix, Thelda Williams; Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department; Elder Michael D. Pickerd of the Seventy and Elder Jim L. Wright of the Seventy.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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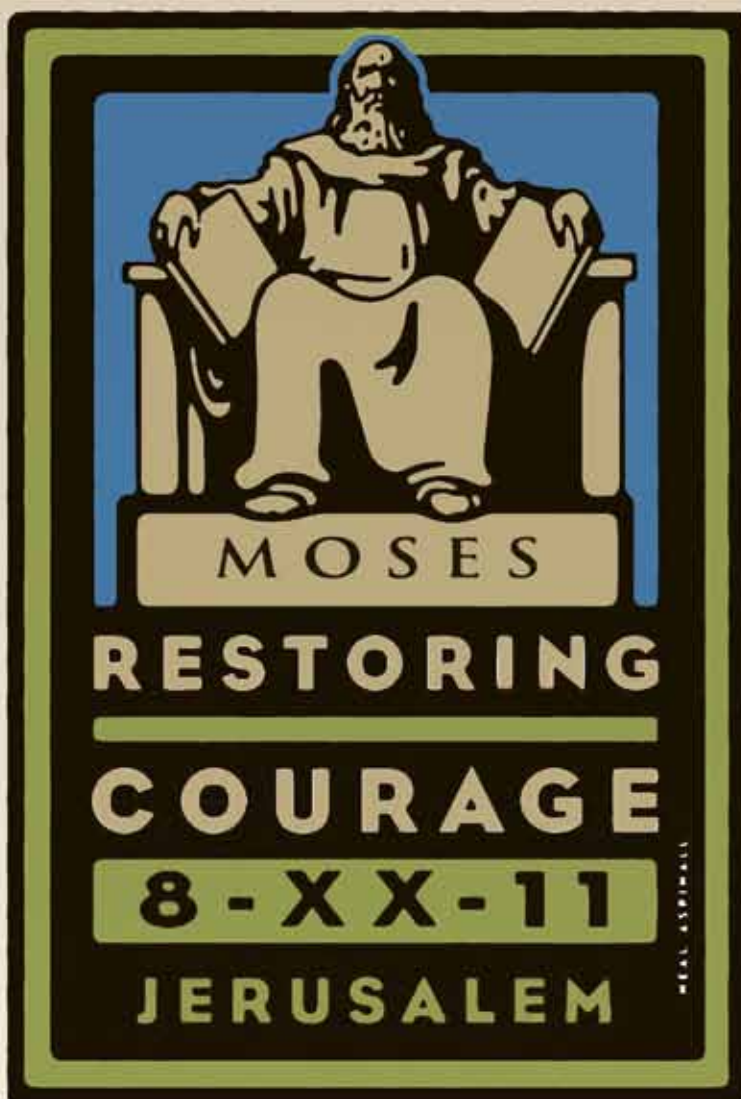
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Phoenix Arizona Temple

Groundbreaking Service

Marks Official Start of Construction

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department, (left) and Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy unveil the artist's rendition of the Phoenix Arizona Temple, at the groundbreaking services held June 4.



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Officials of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and local LDS Church leaders joined with community leaders on June 4th for the official groundbreaking service for the Phoenix Arizona Temple.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy presided over the groundbreaking service and dedicated the temple site located at 5220 West Pinnacle Peak Road in Phoenix.

Elder Rasband was joined by Elder William R. Walker, the Executive Director of the Temple Department and Elder Michael D. Pickerd and Elder Jim L. Wright of the Seventy. Also attending was Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency. Several community and civic leaders were present, including Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett, and State Majority Leader Steve Court, as well as policy advisor to Governor Jan Brewer, Thomas Adkins; the vice mayor of Phoenix, Thelda Williams and mayor of the City of Surprise, Lyn Truitt.

The Phoenix Temple, the fifth in

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Phoenix AZ Temple
Continued from pg. 3



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

With special shovels prepared by Mike Miller of the Windrose Park Ward, Peoria Stake, children from the Phoenix Arizona Temple district participate in the event that marks the official beginning of construction on the temple. Behind the children are (left to right) Sister Melanie T. Rasband and Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy and Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department.

Arizona, was announced by President Thomas S. Monson on May 24, 2008, less than a month following his announcement that temples would be built in Gilbert and in the Gila Valley. Currently, there are three operating Arizona temples, in Mesa, Snowflake and the Gila Valley and construction on the Gilbert Temple is underway following the November 2010 groundbreaking.

Vern Martindale, project manager, says the 58,000-square-foot Phoenix Temple will be "a little larger, small temple." He says, "It is referred to as a 2-70, meaning there will be two endowment rooms that will seat 70 people."

Brother Martindale says that the Church has an extensive approval process for the design of both the exterior and interior of a temple, which typically takes at least a year. "The exterior design and six rooms on the interior have to be designed right down to the doorknobs." The design goes through a four-step approval process and a photo-realistic rendering is created, "even before President Monson sees the design."

He says, "This one has had its unique challenges," referring to some of the questions raised by neighborhood groups about parking and traffic around the temple, but he says, "as issues and problems came up they could be discussed."

Brother Martindale adds that the redesign of the original plans had more to do with the Church's wishes to achieve an "economy of scale" and to "maximize the size of this building to the capacity of the parking" than anything else. (For details about this and

other aspects of the pre-construction phase and for ongoing updates, visit the official site of the Phoenix Arizona Temple at www.phoenixmormontemple.com.)

In his remarks at the groundbreaking service, Elder Pickerd said, "This is a great day for the state of Arizona." He encouraged listeners to prepare themselves and to consider what sacrifice or offering they could give to bring themselves in greater harmony with Jesus Christ.

Elder Walker called it a "joyful day," saying, "Heaven smiles upon this event today." He expressed the hope that listeners would feel "a strong commitment in your hearts today to stay true and

**"This is a day of
rejoicing"**

faithful."

Elder Rasband said the new building will be a "beautiful and magnificent temple" that will bless members of the Church and the Phoenix community.

Clyde Dinnell, of the Thunderbird Hills Ward and member of the high council of the Glendale North Stake, who served as an usher at the groundbreaking, says, "We're converts to the Church and at times have had to take planes or drive four and a half or five hours to a temple. To have something this sacred and this close and this available means ... a lot. It means everything."

Loretta Campbell, of the Bradshaw Ward, Prescott Stake, who offered the benediction at the groundbreaking service, said, "This is a day of rejoicing to me. I love the temple. This will be such a blessing for individuals and families and for our community."

SIX

Arizona Priesthood Leaders to Serve as MISSION PRESIDENTS

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As many Latter-day Saints in Arizona would attest, strength of Church leadership and a dedication to spreading the gospel seem to go with the territory. For the next three years, that Arizona-style leadership will be felt in other parts of the world as, since January 2011, six Arizona men have been called as new mission presidents.

Four of the six are returning to areas they know well.

Gary Dean Rasmussen, 59, of the Binghampton Ward, Tucson Stake, will serve as the Japan Sendai Mission President, returning to where he served as a young man. President Rasmussen, who was the stake president at the time

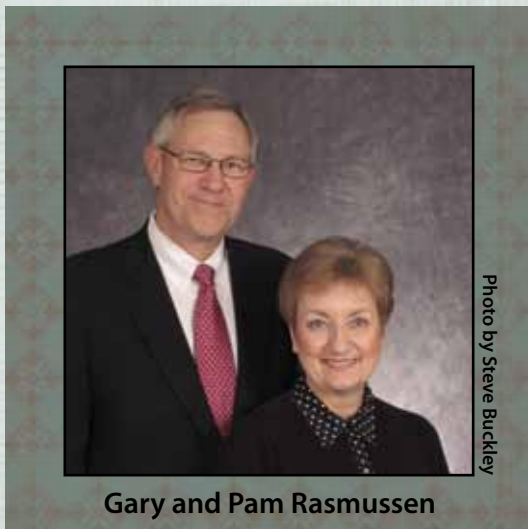
of his call, is excited about having his wife, Pam, as his companion.

“And, I’m looking forward to going back to Japan. Certainly the country has changed since I was there, but I have

a great deal of affection for the people, the culture and all the things that make them such a good and unique people.”

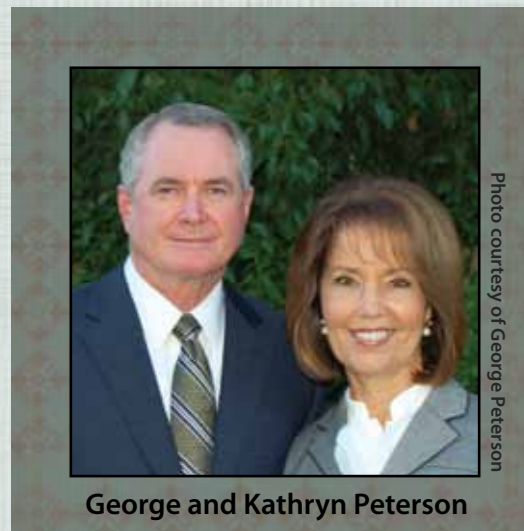
The Japanese culture emphasizes the family and respect for their forefathers, which often translates into interest in the Church. “The idea that ‘families can be together forever’ and that kind of thing resonates with them,” President Rasmussen says. “The Church is being established in families; there are many second and third generation members; they have two operating temples and a third has been announced.”

President Rasmussen will encour-



Gary and Pam Rasmussen

Photo by Steve Buckley



George and Kathryn Peterson

Photo courtesy of George Peterson

age missionaries to embrace the culture and the people. “When you do that, it’s easier to teach the gospel,” he says.

In addition to stake president, he has been a stake Young Men president, high councilor, bishop and ward mission leader.

Sister Rasmussen has served as a ward and stake Relief Society president, counselor in a ward Primary presidency and ward young single adult adviser.

George Earl Peterson, 60, with

Continued on pg. 9

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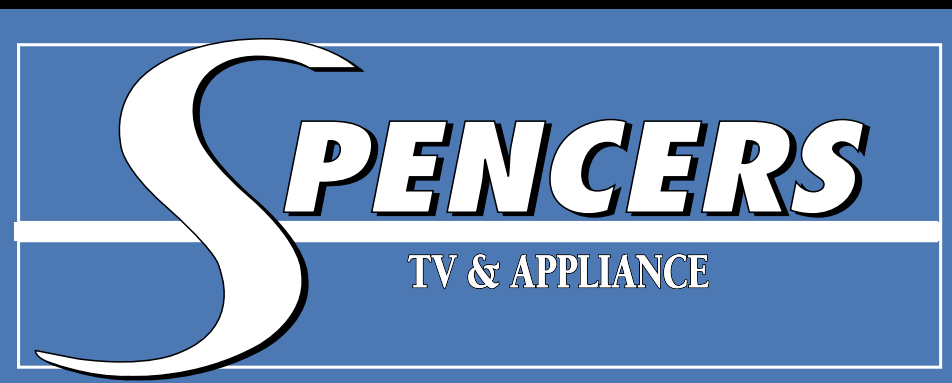
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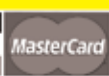
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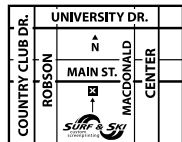
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Mission Presidents from Arizona Continued from pg. 5

his wife, Kathryn, of Lakeside Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, will serve as the Philippines San Pablo Mission President, where President Peterson served 40 years ago.

There was only one mission in the Philippines then; now there are 17 missions and approximately 700,000 members.

"We're so appreciative of the opportunity to be personal witnesses of the Savior," President Peterson says. They look forward to seeing people "accept the Lord's plan for them" and "feel the love of Heavenly Father they perhaps have never felt before."

They are excited about "working

with the Lord's anointed. Through these young men and women and senior couples, the Lord makes miracles happen."

President Peterson has been a counselor in a stake presidency, high councilor, bishop and Scoutmaster. Sister Peterson has been a temple ordinance worker, Relief Society teacher and ward Relief Society, Primary and Young Women president.

Karl Michael Tillemann, 50, with his wife, Holly, of the Mountain Park Ward, Tempe West Stake, will preside over the Canada Vancouver Mission, an area they know well.

"My wife and I were raised in Calgary, Alberta," President Tillemann says. "We're very familiar with

Vancouver and the entire province. We feel very, very blessed, like we're going home."

President Tillemann says Vancouver is a very diverse city, and missionaries—some from Canada, some from other countries—teach in a number of languages, including Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

He hopes to teach the Vancouver missionaries "how to love and to be effective." He encourages members in Arizona to be missionaries as well, saying, "Sometimes we have the wrong definition of success. Anytime we're out there being good examples and trying to share the gospel light," we're being missionaries.

President Tillemann has been a stake president, bishop, counselor in a

bishopric, Young Men president, high priest group leader and mission leader.

Sister Tillemann has served as a

Relief Society teacher, Primary teacher, organist and choir accompanist and counselor in a ward Relief Society, Primary and Young Women presidency.

Brent L. Jameson, 64, with his wife, Lorraine, of

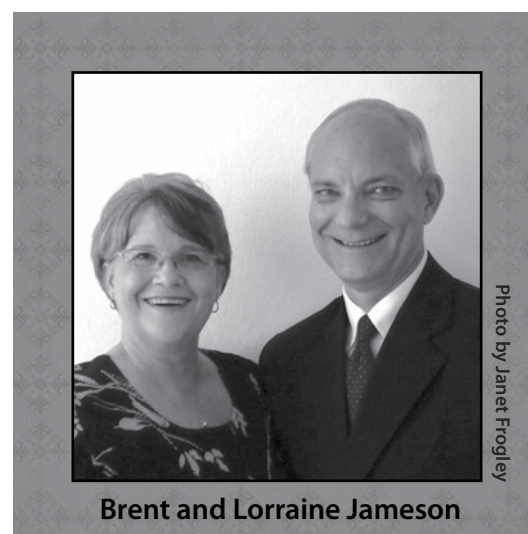
the Shalimar Ward, Tempe Stake, will preside over the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission, returning near Congo Lubumbashi where they recently served as senior missionaries.

"We got home in February and we're going right back," President



Karl and Holly Tillemann

Photo by Elaine Hopper, Hopper Photography



Brent and Lorraine Jameson

Photo by Janet Frogley

Continued on pg. 10

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Mission Presidents from Arizona
Continued from pg. 9

Jameson says.

They have a great long for the people and are happy to be returning. The area is "exploding," President Jameson says. "It's one of the highest baptizing areas in the world. And the retention is good."

A former stake president, bishop, high councilor and counselor in a stake presidency and a bishopric, President Jameson says their focus will be "teaching families and preparing families to go to the temple," even though the nearest temple is 2000 miles away and, "It's very difficult for members to go in terms of financial commitment."

Sister Jameson has been a counselor in a stake and ward Young Women presidency, Young Women adviser, counselor in a Primary presidency and Relief Society instructor.

Serving as president over the Fiji Suva Mission, will be Kenneth Duane Klingler, 56, with his wife, Janis, of the Miramar Ward, Mesa Citrus Heights Stake.

President Klingler says, "We feel humbled by this charge, but somehow the Lord has made us equal to any task we've been given in the past."

"It's definitely an overwhelming thought to have that responsibility and opportunity," he says. Yet, he adds, "It is a great thrill to talk to people and have them express their feelings about

spiritual matters. It's a fun thing for me."

President Klingler has served as a ward missionary, temple ordinance worker, stake president, bishop, counselor in a bishopric and high priest group leader.

Sister

Klingler, who served in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Mission, has been a temple ordinance worker, stake music chairman, ward Young Women and Relief

Society president, choir director and music chairman.

Robert Charles Reeves, 55, with his wife, Janet, of the Ray Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, will serve as the Mexico Puebla Mission President.

"It's an awesome and scary thing," President Reeves says. "It's always exciting to be able to serve in the Church, no matter what your calling."

All but the youngest of their nine children have served fulltime missions. "We have a vested interest in the welfare of missionaries," they say.

Their concern will be for their "physical welfare as well as the spiritual welfare and helping them grow spiritually, so even after their missions they will remain faithful in the Church and be good leaders, good fathers and mothers," President Reeves says.

He served a mission to Spain as a young man, but says, Mexican Spanish is very different.

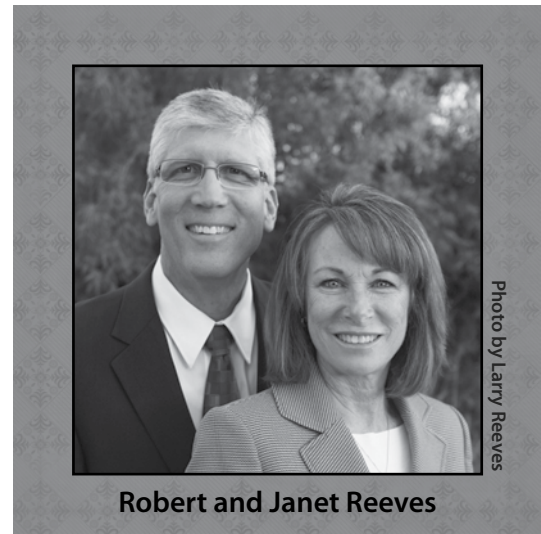


Photo by Larry Reeves

Robert and Janet Reeves

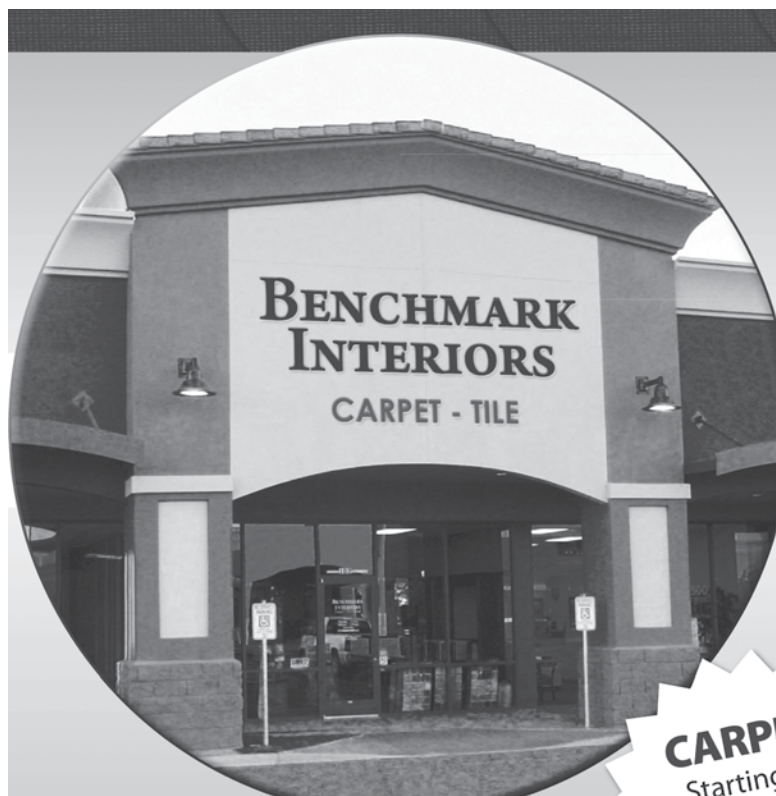
President Reeves will oversee 170 missionaries; 60 percent will be native Mexicans or from South American. The city of Puebla has a million people and is "very nice, very beautiful." On the outskirts, however, "there is a lot of need,

a lot of economic challenges. The people are pretty humble."

President Reeves, who has served as a patriarch, stake president, bishop and a counselor in two mission presidencies, says he and Sister Reeves want to be a resource to Church leaders in Mexico, helping them learn how to fulfill their responsibilities.

Sister Reeves is a former stake Relief Society president, Young Women president, and counselor in a stake and ward Primary presidency.

While hard to leave children and grandchildren behind, all six couples believe blessings will come from their sacrifice. Each is prepared—and excited—for what lies ahead.



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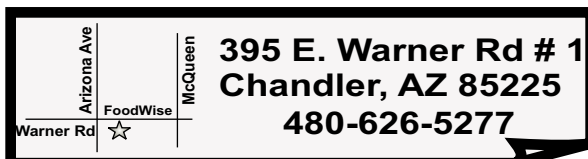
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Maricopa County Jail Ministry Branch Takes the Gospel to Jail Inmates

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Inmates in the Maricopa County jails have their own Branch Presidency and approximately two dozen other LDS volunteers who bring the gospel messages to them on a regular basis. Similar to the state prison ministry program described in the last edition of the Beehive, the jail ministry provides ongoing Church meetings and literature for the 7,500 to 8,000 inmates in the

county jails. Blaine Brimley, of the Sonoran Mountain Ward, North Glendale Stake, worked as a volunteer at the jails for 13 years before recently being called as the Maricopa County Jail Ministry Branch President. His first counselor is Robert McKay, second counselor is Gary Nelson and secretary is Al Jensen.

“It’s a great calling,” President Brimley says. Former Branch President and a member of the Eldorado Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake, Mike Smith, agrees. “It’s one of the best kept secrets in the Church,” says President Smith, who served with his wife, RaeEllen, in the jail ministry for four years. “It’s been an amazing experience. Next to being a bishop it’s the most rewarding calling I’ve had,” he says. President Smith didn’t mind the 12 to 15 hours per week he put in as a volunteer, saying the rewards far outweigh the sacrifice.

“There is an unbelievable spirit there,” President Smith says. “A certain percentage come to the meetings because it’s an opportunity to get out of their cells, but I believe that’s a small percentage. Most realize that they have made mistakes and they want to make changes.” President Brimley adds that the jail ministry affords a great missionary opportunity. Of the 300 to 400 inmates they teach in more than 20 classes each week, only 10 to 20 percent are members of the Church.

“They are children of our Heavenly Father and He loves them all,” he says. “We are able to plant a lot of seeds of the gospel.” For President Brimley, the missionary spirit there and his strong desire to share the gospel have been at the root of his dedication to the jail ministry. While some volunteers are needed for only two to three hours a week, Brother Brimley spends a good part of the day every Thursday and Friday at the jail.

“I teach five meetings on Thursday and four on Friday,” he says. “I know some are listening, at least. I figure I teach more non-members in those meetings than many missionary pairs do in a month.” Meetings are held for men and

women and some in Spanish in the Maricopa County jails, including the Estrella, Durango, Towers and 4th Avenue jails.

Meetings begin with a prayer and song and then a gospel topic is discussed. “Often we show films. They really like the films, so we show things like ‘The Gift,’ ‘The Mailbox,’ ‘Johnny Lingo’ and ‘The Prodigal Son,’” President Brimley says. “We talk about the Book of Mormon, the Restoration of the Gospel and the Priesthood, all as an invitation and a way to say, ‘Come and see what we have to offer.’”

They pass out copies of the Book of Mormon and Church pamphlets and literature, provided for with funds from some of the stakes and from the volunteers themselves. “It’s amazing, the changes we’ve seen,” President Smith says. “We’ve heard of several people who have an interest in the Church and know of many who have gotten out and joined the Church.”

President Brimley says the jail ministry currently has 25 volunteers that come from stakes in Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix and into Mesa. “We need about 25 more,” he says. “Right now we have about 20 meetings a week that only have one volunteer going to them. We want partnerships for these meetings,” he says.

He adds that anyone interested in volunteering for the jail ministry may do so. President Smith “if you’ve got a desire to share the gospel and to testify of the Savior; if you love serving and love feeling the spirit,” the jail ministry would be a good place to serve.

President Brimley says in order to volunteer, individuals can talk to their bishop or stake president or they can call him or one of his counselors directly. To reach President Brimley, call 623-937-0450.

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Saints in Arizona: A Countdown to the STATE'S CENTENNIAL

*The earliest settlers were
examples of fortitude*

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

If Brigham Young would have had his way, most Arizonans would be living in the State of Deseret.

Shortly after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, Church leaders looked to expanding their new colony throughout the West and named it, "Deseret," after the word for "honeybee" in the Book of Mormon.

According to the *Historical Atlas of Arizona*, this provisional state, which existed for slightly more than two years, included all of the present states of Nevada and Utah, Arizona north of the Gila River, large portions

of California, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and southern Idaho.

Church leaders quickly crafted a constitution and applied for statehood, but were denied by the U.S. Congress. Instead, the Utah Territory was formed in 1850 with much smaller borders and the Territory of Arizona would later be established in 1863.

This didn't stop the Latter-day Saints from making Arizona a destination. Church leaders sent scouts and missionaries, including Jacob Hamblin as early as the 1850s. In the 1870s and 1880s, groups came in earnest, intent



Photo courtesy of Sheldon and Colleen Rogers

The first temple in Arizona opened in Mesa on Oct. 23, 1927. This photo shows a group of temple workers who officiated at the temple on Dec. 23, 1927, just two months after the temple was dedicated. Arizona now has three operating temples with two more under construction.

on staying. Many of them returned to areas they had first seen as they marched across the state in 1846 with the Mormon Battalion.

Some of the earliest groups of settlers made the long, arduous journey into Arizona, crossing the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry (now listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and across some of the driest and most barren land in the West.

While initial efforts were futile, overcoming obstacles was their common lot. Severe hardships came in the form of harsh temperatures, isolation

from Church leaders, difficulties with neighbors, crop failures, drought and floods—but still they were undaunted.

Eventually, more than 30 Mormon colonies were started throughout Arizona. The main thrust was along the Little Colorado River; these settlements would become the towns of Joseph City, Woodruff, St. Johns and Eagar. Colonies in neighboring areas included Snowflake, Taylor, Shumway, Show Low, Linden and Heber. In the Gila Valley establishments of Eden, Pima,

Continued on pg. 15

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Firefly Talented Trio Sets the World on Fire

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Firefly is a country/pop musical group on their way to the big time. The group consists of three energetic sisters from Gilbert, Arizona: Melanie, McKenzie and Madelyn Merchant. The sisters spin webs of tight harmony in their original songs and are seen as a breath of fresh country air.

The three red-haired sisters have their own unique sound with voices blending as only sisters can. Though the oldest, Melanie, says she is the unofficial leader, they each share the spotlight taking turns singing lead on various songs. The sisters play their own instruments with Melanie on guitar, McKenzie plays the mandolin and keyboards and Madelyn plays the cello and fiddle.

Since 2009, Firefly has played to approximately 7,500 fans, in venues from Arizona to New York. They have entertained audiences with LeAnn Rimes, Carrie Underwood, Justin Bieber, Wynonna Judd, Ryan Shupe and the Rubber Band, Gin Blossom and Steve Wariner. They are also a favorite of Arizona radio

personalities, Tim and Willy of KMLE.

The trio grew up with four more siblings and surrounded by music. "Our mother, (Gaylene), sang jazz harmonies with her sisters and our dad (Michael) was part of a Blue Grass Band," says Melanie.

The name "Firefly" was inspired by a visit to Mississippi where the girls saw fireflies lighting up the evening sky.

"While on the road during family vacations we listened to Martina McBride, Alabama, Alison Krauss, Journey, Chicago and Earth Wind and Fire," says Melanie. They were also inspired by Avril Lavigne, John Mayer, Lady Antebellum, Rascal Flatts and fellow Arizonan, Michelle Branch.

Melanie says, "We would love to open for Keith Urban or Taylor Swift."

Firefly has taken years of dedication and commitment. McKenzie says, "We have to practice about four hours a day for a month before a show."

The three sisters practice in front of four large rectangular mirrors cover-



Photo by Gaylene Merchant

Firefly--a country/pop musical group made up of three sisters--(left to right) Madelyn, Melanie and McKenzie Merchant--has caught the attention of fans across the nation with the girls' energy, tight harmony and unique, blended sound

ing most of a long wall in the practice studio at their parent's home, which creates a stage like area. Before shows, the girls warm up in the dressing room by clogging, singing and laughing. According to Firefly's manager, Cindy Goldney, Firefly sends everyone else out for the last 10 minutes prior to a show to have "alone time" together where they share a prayer and focus their energy.

Writing music is a give-and-take proposition for the close sisters. They talk alike and often finish each other's sentences. Typically their interaction

unfolds like it did at a recent writing session: Each sister gives input. "Which do you like better?" asks Madelyn. "Whatever you want," says Melanie. The two sing it both ways then ask McKenzie what she thinks. McKenzie likes them both, so Madelyn goes with the one she likes the best and the other two sisters agree.

Melanie is a BYU graduate. McKenzie completed a semester at BYU and currently does online classes. Madelyn attends high school and plays in the

Continued on pg. 15

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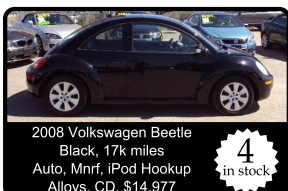
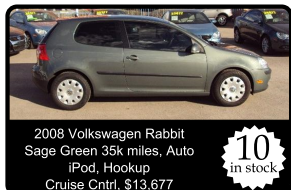
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school orchestra. Madelyn also writes orchestration for Firefly's music, and, according to her father, has perfect pitch.

The Merchant's are members of the Queen Creek Chandler Heights Stake. However, their father says, Firefly reaches far beyond their LDS community, with music that appeals to people from a wide range of backgrounds. "They want to be inclusive, not exclusive as they bring their music to the world. They are happy to shine their light and spirituality as well," Brother Merchant says.

The sisters hope to be a good example for young girls. Melanie says, "Our favorite crowd is girls from 7 to 18. We want to show you can have a fun time doing something good."

Madelyn says, "We want to make virtue attractive for girls. We hope to be someone to look up to and want to be the kind of people that don't change, always have high standards and give something for girls to hope for."

They also want to use their foot-stomping beat to do missionary work.

Melanie says, "Firefly's mission is to do missionary work through the world with our music."

"Look for us on Facebook. You have to sort through a lot of Firefly listings. We are the ones with red hair," says Melanie with a laugh.

Firefly can also be found on Twitter, YouTube and <http://IHeartFirefly.com>. Also check out iTunes Link: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/fairytale/id/363622369>

Arizona's Early Saints Continued from pg. 13

Central and Thatcher grew up. And, along the San Pedro River, Pomerene and St. David were settled.

The greatest concentration and development started near the Salt River with the founding of Lehi in 1877 and Mesa the following year.

Some doubted if permanent settlements could survive in harsh deserts and extreme temperatures, but early pioneers resurrected ancient canals or dug new ones, which made life in the desert possible. Later, automobiles, dams and reservoirs and air conditioning made it easier.

The perseverance of the Arizona pioneers was commendable. For instance, at Woodruff, on the Little Colorado River, it was recorded that the Latter-day Saints built 17 successive dams after each was destroyed by flash floods. That kind of fortitude was exemplified again and again by early settlers and the stories are now held in reverence by their posterity.

According to Church statistics, today there are nearly 400,000 members in Arizona with four missions. There are three temples – the Mesa Temple

Personal progress VALUE PROJECT turns into philanthropic business for Queen Creek teen

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Rebecca Chesley, 18, of the Crismon Ward, Queen Creek North Stake, wanted an inexpensive—yet modest—dress for the prom.

"My older cousins had all these dresses that they didn't want to wear twice so they gave them to me. Some girls in my ward wanted to borrow too and that is how it started."

Rebecca now owns, maintains and loans out over 50 formal and semi-formal dresses.

"I learned how to sew as a value project for personal progress and made my first dress," she says. Since then, Rebecca has spent hours of her own time and money creating, altering and fashioning new looks from the donations she has received.

"Sometimes I'll get a dress that won't work for too many people and I'll cut it down and make a formal skirt out of it. I have girls who need a dress hemmed or lengthened and I've created shrugs to go with some of the donated dresses that are not as modest," she says.

Rebecca allows young women to borrow her dresses at no charge, but asks that they be dry cleaned before they are returned. She appreciates those who have donated dresses and cash to help her expand her collection. "Eventually, I'd really like to add matching ties and purchase more shrugs and accessories to help make wearing the dress a unique experience for each girl. The important part is that I want it to remain free so that everyone can have access to them."



Photo by Stacy Johnson

Rebecca Chesley shows off her collection of dresses that she loans out at no cost for formal occasions.

Anyone interested in borrowing a dress, can contact Rebecca at bchesley1@hotmail.com.

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was dedicated 1927, the Snowflake Temple in 2002 and The Gila Valley Temple in 2010. Two more are in progress, one in Gilbert and one in Phoenix.

In *Breaking the Wilderness*, which was one the earliest published histories of the West, (published 1905), author Frederick S. Dellenbaugh wrote this of the early Mormon settlers:

"It must be acknowledged that the Mormons were wilderness breakers of high quality. They not only broke it, but they kept it broken; and instead of the gin mill and the gambling hall, as cornerstones of their progress and as examples to the natives of the white men's superiority, they planted orchards, gardens, farms, schoolhouses and peaceful homes...A people who have accomplished so much that is good, who have endured danger, privation and suffering, who have withstood the obloquy of more powerful sects, have in them much that is commendable; they deserve more than abuse, they deserve admiration."

Editor's note: On Feb. 14, 2012, Arizona will celebrate its centennial. In this and in articles that will appear in coming issues, The Beehive pays tribute to the influence of Latter-day Saints in the state.

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SOLAR-POWERED CHURCH opens in Mesa

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Fitting for an area known as the “Valley of the Sun,” the LDS Church opened a solar-powered and environmentally-friendly meetinghouse, the first in Arizona, in May.

Church officials held a media event April 28 to show off the new building at 10036 E. Brown Road in Mesa. The new building located in the Apache Junction Arizona Stake.

Apache Junction Stake President Stanley Lawlor said the new building brings the total to four buildings in his stake, which has 10 wards and a Spanish-speaking branch.

“(The building) will be a great blessing to our members,” he said. “We’re excited to see what it can do.”

“It is a beautiful addition to the area,” he added.

Leading a tour of the new building and explaining its features was Jared Doxey, director of architecture, engineering and construction for all LDS meetinghouses worldwide.

He told local church and civic leaders that the nearly 20,000-square-foot building is one of five prototype churches in Arizona, Utah and Nevada being used to test sustainable technologies.



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Jared Doxey, Director of Architectural Engineering and Construction Division, Meetinghouse Facilities, explains the benefits of solar.

He said that a similar one built in Utah last year earned Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for implementing elements of “green” design, and he expects this building to also receive certification.

“We are interested in being good stewards of the earth,” Brother Doxey told the group, explaining that energy-saving construction materials and practices have been used by the LDS Church since the 1950s.

“For many decades we have used conservation practices throughout the world,” he said.

On the roof of the meetinghouse are 143 American-made solar panels that are expected to generate enough electricity using the power of the sun to heat and cool the building throughout the year and to achieve a net-zero utility cost.

“If the sun shines, you’ve got power,” Brother Doxey said.

He explained that electricity generated during the winter months will be a surplus and that power will be sold into the power grid. In the summer months, additional energy will be purchased from the utility company to cool the building.

The solar power system cost \$178,000 installed, and it should pay for itself in energy savings in 8 to 10 years, he added. Brother Doxey expects the panels to continue working beyond that for another 15 to 20 years.

Other features of the new building include improved insulation on the outside walls and roof; xeriscaping with drought-resistant plants, limited grass areas and automated water sensors that save 50 percent more water than conventional landscaping; windows that block 78 percent of the sun’s heat energy; and architectural design elements that take advantage of natural lighting; energy-efficient light bulbs; and automatic light switches that turn off when rooms are not occupied.

System monitoring will pinpoint mechanical malfunctions on the property via the Internet and emails are automatically sent to facility managers off premises to notify them of any problems.

Brother Doxey added that the new monitoring system reduces travel time and troubleshooting by service providers. The only on-site maintenance expected for the solar panels is to hose off the dust periodically.

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Entertainment Superstar **Donny Osmond** to Perform **LIVE** in Arizona

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Just the name “Donny Osmond” says it all for many, many fans. Now fans in Arizona will have a chance to see the entertainment superstar live when he appears at the Celebrity Theater in August.

The name Donny Osmond encapsulates a 40-plus-year career, during which time the “teen idol of the 1970s continued to reinvent himself and make a name as an actor, televi-

sion show host, best-selling author, commercial spokesman, motivational speaker and award-winning “Dancing With the Stars” Champion in 2009.

He’s also well known for his six-year, 2000-performance run as star of Andrew Lloyd Weber’s musical stage production, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

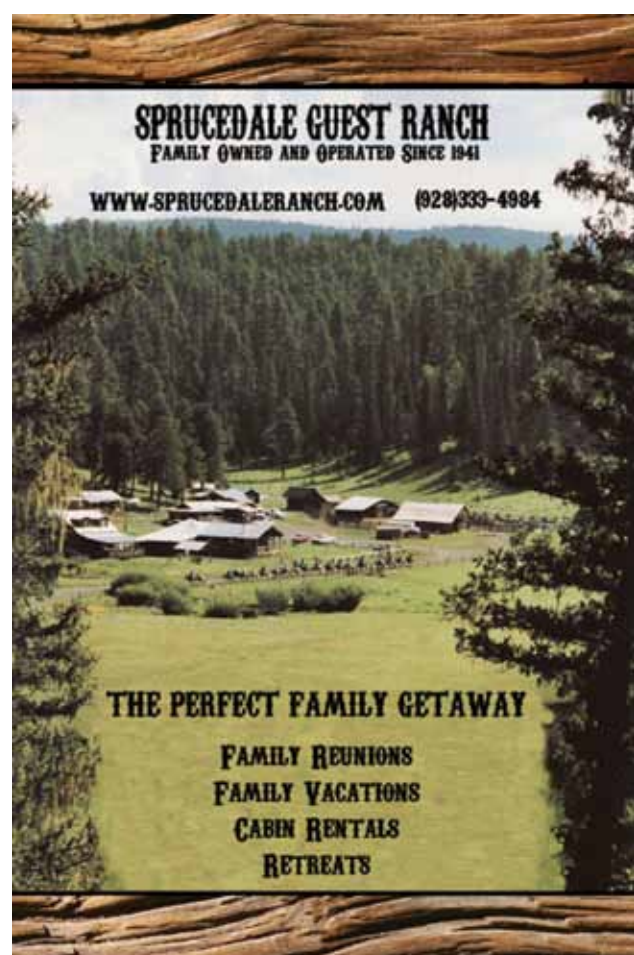
Throughout the years, Donny’s fan base and popularity has continued to

grow and over the course of his career he has earned 33 gold records and has had sales of over 80 million albums. His website www.donny.com receives 120 million-plus hits annually. The Las Vegas show he now appears in with his sister Marie has been highly successful and has been renewed recently through the end of 2012.

Donny Osmond will perform at Arizona’s historic Celebrity Theater

in-the-round. The one-night show will be at 8 p.m. on Monday, August 29. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The Celebrity Theatre is located at 440 N. 32nd St., four blocks south of the Loop 202 freeway, in Phoenix. Tickets (\$40 and \$70) are on sale now at Celebrity Theatre box office or online at www.celebritytheatre.com. To charge by phone, call 602-267-1600 ext.1. All tickets are subject to a surcharge.



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“Mormon Prom”

addresses Strength of Youth values for East Valley Teens

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

On May 7, more than 800 LDS young men and young women and their non-member friends from approximately 30 stakes across the Valley attended this year’s Spring Formal, or what teenagers commonly call the “Mormon Prom.”

“The goal is to provide the highest quality dance, with great music, awesome refreshments, the highest quality photos, and an atmosphere that is wholesome and fun,” says Brent McLeod, high councilman in the Gilbert Greenfield Stake and chairman of the Spring Formal.

He adds. “This dance provides an opportunity for all youth to have fun, feel safe, and know they are upholding the standards of the Church and our Heavenly Father. This dance is awesome.”

While Gilbert Greenfield Stake typically acts as host, other stakes offer to take on the responsibility for things like decorating, photography, refreshments, advertising and anything else.

“There is never a problem getting leaders and youth to volunteer to help in any way,” Brother McLeod adds.

The dance featured a professional DJ with music chosen by a committee of youth from the many stakes involved. Food was provided and attendees had the option of choosing from among four different photography stations. As in previous years, pictures were available to download free shortly after the prom was over.

The budget for the Spring Formal is shared by all of the stakes that offer to help. Ticket prices were \$10 per couple or \$5 per person, but, in the end, the cost is minimal. Advertising happens through the teens mostly by posters at seminary buildings and flyers.

“Advertising is crucial, the youth know how to use technology to advertise the event” says Brother McLeod. “They are amazing.”

The date for the dance was chosen by checking the local school calendars and finding a night that did not conflict with school proms. “I think there are many kids who chose our dance because of the low cost, quality photographs, outstanding refreshments and wholesome environment. Our dance is very uplifting for our youth and there are so many that never get a chance to experience a ‘formal dance’ in high school and [it seems] the school dances have gotten worse and worse.”

This year, the Gilbert Greenfield prom happened to be on the same night as the Queen Creek North Stake’s prom. However, Brother McLeod explained that was unintentional. While some teens felt they had to choose one prom

over the other, several got tickets to both and spent time at each. Tyler Fairbanks of the Ironwood Ward, Queen Creek North Stake, attended the Queen Creek event. “I knew the Mormon prom would be better standards wise and I didn’t

want to be subjected to the kind of dancing and music that would have been at the school prom. I went with two other couples and we had a lot of fun.”

Brother McLeod stresses, “Ultimately, we just want to give the young

men and young women the opportunity to attend a formal dance where the cost is minimal, and they know that the standards of our Heavenly Father are being upheld.”



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Michael Cowan's Leadership Roles Do Double Duty

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Being the superintendent for Mesa Public Schools is a big responsibility. So is being a stake president. Michael Cowan, of the Groves Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake manages to do both. Sometimes he's called Dr. Cowan, and other times he's called President Cowan.

Michael Cowan grew up in Huntington Beach, California, where he joined the Church when he was 15 years old. He served an LDS Mission to the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo Mission. Michael and his wife, Amy, moved to Mesa 23 years ago, after he graduated from Brigham Young University.

The Cowans enjoy working with young people and have been busy raising four sons, ranging in age from 16 to 23 years old: Kevin, Blake, Trevor and Justin. All of their boys have been students of the Mesa Public Schools.

After earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education from BYU,

President Cowan continued his education in Arizona while he taught school. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees from Arizona State University.

"I have always wanted to build a career that supports our community's youth. Education has been my passion for as long as I can remember," says Dr. Cowan. "I started as a teacher in three different schools. Then I transferred to the district office and worked in the following positions: curriculum specialist, Director of Science and Social Studies, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Superintendent and Superintendent."

Michael Cowan has been the Mesa Arizona Mountain View Stake president almost as long as he has been the Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, a position he has held for the last two years. Both leadership positions have interesting parallels.

Dr. Cowan loves living and working in Mesa. "I have a deep respect and



Photo by Joy Gough

Dr. Michael Cowan, shown with his wife, Amy, and their sons (left to right) Justin (23), Trevor (21), Kevin (16) and Blake (18) is the Stake President for Mesa Arizona Mountain View Stake and the Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools.

commitment to the children and families in Mesa," he says. He extends that love and respect to his stake family.

There are many school teachers in his stake that see him as their ecclesiastical leader and their boss. One such stake member, Tosha Williams, of the Montecito Ward, says, "Michael Cowan is one of the most dynamic and personable people I have ever met. He gives each individual the time they need and sees the overall picture, considering all

viewpoints before making decisions."

One of Dr. Cowan's favorite experiences each year is graduation. "It is the culmination of the work of many people over many years. Students, parents, community members, teachers, staff members working for years to help equip our students with the skills needed to be successful. It's a moving experience to watch them march onto our foot-

Continued on pg. 22

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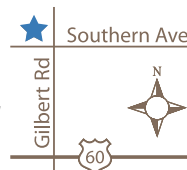
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“Father of Stevia”

Recognized with “Visionary Award”

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

James A. (Jim) May, of the Thayer Park Ward, Mountain View Stake, is often referred to as the “Father of Stevia.” He not only introduced the natural sweeter-than-sugar herb to the United States, he also spent the past quarter of a century working to bring the sweetener to the U.S. market and to educate people about its benefits.

In the process, he also “fathered” new opportunities for hundreds of farmers and others in Paraguay and founded Wisdom Natural Brands, the

Gilbert-based company that he and his wife, Carol, run and that makes Sweet-Leaf Stevia sweetener.

Recently, the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) honored Brother May with an award created especially to honor him. According to the AHPA, the first-ever 2011 AHPA Visionary Award recognized him for his “tireless championing of stevia as an agricultural crop for family farmers in developing countries and his promotion of stevia as a natural sweetener that



AHPA/Andy Templeton Photography

James A. May, founder of Wisdom Natural Brands, accepts the 2011 American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) Visionary Award in recognition of his persistent dedication in the advancement of all-natural stevia. Presenting the award is Steven Dentali, PhD, AHPA's Chief Science Officer.

could have a role in fighting childhood obesity and in preventing diabetes.”

In 1982, when a Peace Corps

worker told Jim about stevia, explaining about its sweet taste and its benefits

Continued on pg. 23

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Michael Cowan's Leadership Roles Continued from pg. 20

ball fields and to join in the celebration of 13 years of learning,” he says.

When he thinks of the people he is fortunate to work with and associate with in the Mountain View Stake, President Cowan describes the deep respect he has for the members’ commitment and dedication. “I really enjoy working with our youth. I am constantly impressed with their courage, strength and tenacity to follow their Savior.”

Working with others to help students achieve and succeed is one of his favorite responsibilities as superintendent. “Whether visiting a school, meeting with a group of parents or working on new programs to provide parents and students with more educational opportunities, it is a very rewarding experience.”

for health, Jim was skeptical at first.

"I could not believe what he was telling me. I thought, 'I am not putting some leaf from some plant in my mouth and believe it's going to cure anything,'" he said.

Since then, he has learned much from personal experience and from the 1,500 published research papers that say stevia contains 100 different nutrients and that it kills harmful bacteria.

At the time, all he had to go on was a confirmation of the spirit. "I wrote a check for my life's savings to have a shipment of stevia brought back to the United States. The spirit said 'do it' and I knew I had to do it."

Shortly thereafter, Brother May went to Paraguay himself.

"I went into the fields and met the farmers who said there was no market for stevia in their country anymore."

While there he learned that the Guaraní tribes of South America had consumed the plant for centuries. He also learned about other uses for stevia, including as a face mask to soften and smooth wrinkles. "It kills herpes virus, kills other viruses and harmful bacteria and good bacteria thrive on it," Brother May says. "God knew what he was doing, and the closer to the way God provides it, the better it is for us."

Jim encouraged the Latin American farmers to grow stevia, telling them that he would in turn buy from them.

Over the ensuing several years, Brother May would face numerous setbacks and obstacles, including challenging government regulations, but he continued to persevere. One of his most satisfying victories came in 2008, when his company was the first to receive GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) status for a line of stevia products.

While not the first award Brother May has received, the AHPA Visionary Award presented during the association's annual member meeting in March, meant a great deal to Brother May.

"It's an honor to be recognized by such an important institution," he said. "I always believed stevia would bring significant changes to the way we eat, encouraging a healthier relationship with sweets. When you know that there is a natural product that can change lives for the better, how can you not do everything you can to make the world aware?"

Today, Brother May enjoys working with Carol to run their business. "I couldn't do it without her," he says.

He also travels around the world, sharing his expertise and promoting the benefits of the stevia plant.

For more information about Brother May or about stevia, visit <http://www.sweetleaf.com/>.

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Unique Arizona Bishop

Enjoys a Life of Service and Faith

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When Bishop Arvester “Arvey” Campbell stands at the pulpit, the years of heartache and poverty fade away, the differences in his culture, skin color and background all disappear for him and for the members he serves in the Peralta Ward, Chandler Alma Stake.

Bishop Campbell, who believes he is the first black bishop in Arizona, says conducting meetings, counseling and ministering to members of his ward is a labor of love and is a far cry from his life growing up.

Born in a small Missouri town to a single mother who was 15 at the time, Arvey was raised by his great grandmother after his mother left for California.

When he was 12, he went for what he thought was going to be a short visit to see his mom, but soon learned he

would not be going back to Missouri. He also learned just how dismal life would be for the next several years.

His mother, an alcoholic, provided no support for him and his younger sister.

“We didn’t ever have food in the house,” Bishop Campbell says. “We would go to school hungry and come home and there would be nothing in the fridge. It was really, really hard.”

When he was 14, “things got so, so bad,” he says. One day, in desperation, he slumped to the floor and cried out to the Lord, pleading for deliverance and direction.

That prayer wouldn’t be fully answered for several years, but, looking back, he can see the Lord’s hand in how things unfolded. “We lived in a low-income area, with lots of drugs, alcohol, gaming and such. Someone



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Arvester “Arvey” Campbell and his wife, Julie, met, were married and joined the Church while at Eastern Arizona College. He now serves as bishop of the Peralta Ward, Chandler Alma Stake.

was watching over me and protected me from that mess.”

He eventually got a job through a welfare program for kids and “I continued to play basketball. It was the one thing I had that took me away from the struggles,” he says.

Having honed his basketball skills and kept his grades up, he could have played for just about any college.

“Something said, ‘Go to Eastern Arizona,’” so Arvey ended up at the two-year college in Thatcher.

There, Malcolm Carter approached Arvey on the street one day and invited him to play Church basketball. Later he asked Arvey to attend Church

and then to take the missionary discussions.

By this time, he had met Julie, a young woman from the Micronesian island of Yap. “Of all the schools she had to choose from in the world, she had chosen to come to EA about the same time I did,” Bishop Campbell says.

He invited Julie to hear the discussions with him.

“Right away, we felt like this was somewhere we needed to be,” he says. Within a few months they were married and both of them were baptized. A

Continued on pg. 27



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"I have had a lower back pain for many, many years. Over the last few years it continued to worsen and I had to go on stage and block out the pain I was having. Like many people I had heard terrible stories about back surgery and with my schedule in touring I could never take the chance that I would be off for months with a back surgery so I just learned to live with it. After a five hour back surgery to repair two disks, I don't have any pain at all, and I used to have pain like crazy," Osmond stated.

Please join us as Mr. Osmond shares his personal story and sings a few songs from his latest recording "HEART AND SOUL".



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Celebration Features **David Archuleta** as Headliner



Photo courtesy Creative Artists Agency

American Idol David Archuleta will be the headliner for the year's Constitution Week celebration in Gilbert.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

This September, Gilbert's Constitution Week USA celebration will mark its 10th anniversary, with an event that will be bigger and better than ever, featuring American Idol David Archuleta as the headliner.

"We've grown every year," says committee co-chair Barbara Stowell, adding that, according to some estimations, last year's event drew nearly 10,000 people.

This year, the committee is excited to have a new venue as well as a headliner that will attract a great deal of attention, particularly among young people.

Barb says young people have been at the center of the planning of this year's event. "We want to get more youth there and help instill pride in America in our youth," Barb says. "David Archuleta puts on a great show for everyone. Hopefully having him headline our event will draw youth, while providing great entertainment and keeping it a great family event as well."

Archuleta, who reached second place on American Idol in season

7, saw massive success shortly after the popular show. His rendition of "Crush," which hit No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 the week of its 2008 release, has since sold two million downloads. The now 19-year-old Murray, Utah native has written a book titled "Chords of Strength" and recently released his second album, *The Other Side of Down*.

Along with the free outdoor concert featuring David Archuleta, the family-friendly Constitution Week USA celebration includes a host of other things to see and do, all with an emphasis on the Constitution and the foundations of our freedom.

"There are lots of replicas, including a replica of Independence Hall, the Washington Monument and the U.S. Supreme Court," Barb says. New this year will be the Freedom Trail replica, based on the Boston historical sites associated with the American Revolution.

There will be characters dressed in period costumes to represent Betsy

Continued on pg. 27

Unique Arrow of Light Presentation Draws from Native American Lore

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Earning the Arrow of Light Award is a milestone event for any Cub Scout. The patch for the Arrow of Light award is the only one that can be carried over and worn on the Boy Scout uniform. Milt Hulet, of the Lindsay Ward, Mesa Arizona Hermosa Vista Stake, is committed to making this achievement memorable for young Scouts.

Dressed in authentic Native American chief regalia, complete with head dress, Milt and fellow Scouter, Ray Kay, attend Arrow of Light Advancements, where they create a unique experience, filled with wonder and imagination. When held outside, their presentation includes the shooting of flaming arrows and a campfire. If the advancement ceremony is inside, they use an electric fire. Milt's wife, Patti,

enjoys the outdoor events. "Being outside allows the spirit to whisper to you," she says.

Milt and Ray are members of the Order of the Arrow, an Honor Camper Society and Service Organization of the Boy Scout program. They volunteer their time. Both men are life-long Scouters, having earned their Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver Awards. Ray has performed this service for 30 years and, while he is not LDS, has attended many LDS Scout advancements. Milt joined Ray 15 years ago. In addition to Arrow of Light Advancements, they are often asked to participate in Eagle Scout Ceremonies.

Brother Hulet may be reached by emailing soaringeagleaz@cox.net or calling 602-327-7478.

Constitution Week Continued from pg. 26

Ross, George Washington and others; "kids' activities and entertainment, lots of food and an amazing fireworks show," Barb says.

Other highlights include the Arizona Fallen Soldier Display, art and essay award winners from the schools and the community art exhibit.

Also performing will be the newly formed East Valley band, Fortress: A Band of Patriots, featuring vocals by Alyssa Monahan, Paul Muehlmann, Andrew McKee; Mike Malais on guitar; Jason Barney on keyboard; Gilbert Town Council member, Eddie Cook, on bass; and Joe Arnett on drums.

"There's so much to see and do there. Families can come and stay, sit on blankets on the grass, and just have

a really nice evening," Barb says.

Scout clinics are offered during the week prior to the celebration and the inspiring "The Miracle of America," with photographic images by Helen Robson, will be presented Friday, September 16.

On Saturday, September 17, the Constitution Week USA celebration starts at 6 p.m. at this year's new venue, the Gilbert Civic Plaza/Town Square at 50 E. Civic Center Drive in Gilbert. Attendees are asked for a donation of \$2/person or \$10/family.

For more information about the event, to get involved, or for patriotic activities to do with your family, visit www.constitutionweekusa.com.

Arizona Bishop Continued from pg. 24

year later they were sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple.

They immersed themselves in "studying, trying to be obedient, learning and growing in the gospel."

Only once—when a man walked up to him after a general priesthood meeting, stuck his finger in his face and said, "Your kind of people don't belong in this church"—did he ever question his decision, but "The Lord had confirmed to me that this is where we need to be," he says.

In the ensuing years, and especially as a bishop, he says, "I have really

enjoyed being an instrument in the Lord's hands and being able to do His work and help lift up others any way I can. I want to help wherever I can, through the Lord and the inspiration I get from Him."

Today, Arvey Campbell rarely looks back, and he certainly doesn't resent his background or the difficult childhood he had, knowing it was part of a plan that led him to the life he has now.

"This is a wonderful, wonderful time for me. I would do it all over again, wouldn't change a thing.






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MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR TO VISIT ARIZONA

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir will help Arizona celebrate 100 years of statehood, with two performances in Arizona in February 2012.

"The Mormon Tabernacle Choir has not been to Arizona for over 40 years," says Andrew McKee, member of the East Valley Mormon Choral Organization and Choir Director in the Catalina Ward, Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake.

"Mormons and non-Mormons alike will be astonished and moved by a performance of this Choir under the direction of Mack Wilberg who is regarded to be one of the greatest choir directors in the world," says Brother McKee.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, based in Salt Lake City Utah, is one

of the oldest and largest choirs in the world. The Choir consists of 360 faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The men and women range from 25 to 60 years of age and come from different backgrounds and professions. Their talented and rich voices blend together in faith, and they have inspired audiences in over 28 countries.

They have sung in five Presidential inaugurations and to kings and queens throughout the world. They have been called "an American icon," "a holiday tradition" and "the world's greatest choir."

According to the official website for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the first recording was made in 1910 and they



Mormon Tabernacle Choir in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

Photo courtesy of LDS.org

have since produced over 175 albums and earned five gold and two platinum records. The recordings are consistently at the top of the Billboard classical charts.

The Choir won a Grammy Award for its 1959 rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" recorded with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Choir also has won an Emmy Award and two Peabody Awards for service to American Broadcasting. The Music and the Spoken Word, a radio program featuring the Choir has been inducted into the National Association of Broadcaster Hall of Fame for the longest continuous broadcast in history.

In 1981 and again in 1988, the

Choir was awarded the Freedom Foundation George Washington Award.

In 2003, they received the National Medal of Arts, an honor that President George W. Bush admitted was long overdue.

In November of 2006, they were honored as a Laureate of the Mother Theresa Award for edifying the world through inspirational choral performances and recordings.

Richard Elliott, principal organist of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir says, "People often ask us when the Choir goes on tour how we manage to take the organ along with us. Actually, the Tabernacle organ weighs over 50 tons and would be impossible to carry with

Continued on pg. 30

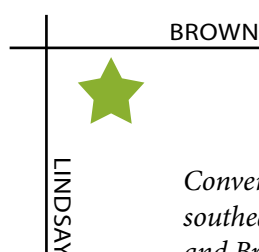


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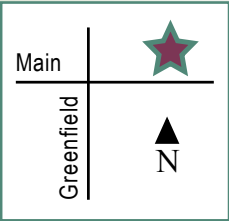
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Gilbert Funeral Home Earns Prestigious Gold Exemplary Service Award

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When the world's leading independent funeral service association recognized the outstanding funeral homes for 2011, LDS family-owned and operated Falconer Funeral Home, in Gilbert, came out on top.

From among the 800 independent funeral homes affiliated with the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR), Falconer received the first place Gold Exemplary Service Award.

Accepting the award at the OGR annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, was Falconer Funeral Home director,

Christian "Chris" Timothy, his wife Ellen and their son Chad.

According to OGR outgoing president, Kevin Opsahl, the award is presented to "outstanding firms for reaching the top levels of service," based on feedback from client families who complete the Family Contact Program surveys.

One comment in particular resulted in Falconer being nominated for the award. The client wrote: "Mr. Timothy was truly compassionate to what we were going through ... it was not an act but a reflection of who he is as a person of good character. Mr. Timothy and his



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Falconer Funeral Home director and owner Chris Timothy (left) and his assistant, Darson Allred, show the plaque they received after being awarded the Gold Exemplary Service Award, the top award from the 800-member International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR).

staff did for us what he does for every funeral. It may be ordinary for them ... but it was out of the ordinary for me, and above every expectation I had."

Chris says while that quote earned them the nomination, consistency is what led to their becoming the first Ari-

zona funeral home to be honored with the OGR award. On the surveys that rate everything from the appearance of the funeral home, to staff participation, how the remains are handled and the overall experience of the family, Chris says, "We have been very consistent and have maintained an exceptional rating."

The Timothys, who are members of the Lindsay First Ward, Chandler East Stake, say they are proud of the award and "very honored. It's a reflection that we're doing things right."

A first-generation funeral home owner, Chris became interested in the business as a teen.

"It started with the death of my grandfather when I was 17. At that time I wanted to become a forensic pathologist," he explains. However, "After my mission, I started working with a funeral home in Northern Arizona and I

Continued on pg. 31

Mormon Tabernacle Choir
Continued from pg. 28

us so we do take a digital electronic organ with over 30 speaker cabinets and a crew of two men to help set it up in every venue. And this organ is sort of patterned after the Tabernacle organ in that it has some of the same kinds of sounds of the Tabernacle organ. They are samples, per say, of the Tabernacle organ's stops but it does do a wonderful job of melding with the choir and giving us that signature sound even when we are on the road traveling from venue to venue."

The Arizona Centennial Celebration Performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir will be held at the US Airways Center, 201 East Jefferson Street, in Phoenix. Two performances are scheduled; one on Friday, February 10, 2012, and the second on Saturday, February 11, 2012. The performances are recommended for adults and children age eight and above.

To take advantage of Church group ticket price, order your tickets through your ward/branch ticket representative. Tickets are also available on www.mormontabernaclechoir.org.

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which pass nine tendons and one nerve—the median nerve. CTS occurs when the median nerve is irritated, often through repetitive hand motions.

The medical approach is wrist immobilization with a splint, corticosteroid injections, and possibly surgery.

Since most people who do repetitive tasks do not get CTS there appears to be a contributing factor to this condition. In many people it may be the health of the spine and that is why anyone suffering from CTS should see a chiropractor to ensure that his/her spinal column is properly aligned and free from nerve pressure.

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Three Volumes **TELL STORY** of Moapa Valley, Nevada

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

As Nevada's first female investigative coroner, Virginia "Beezy" Tobiasson learned how to uncover facts. That skill served her well when she decided to write about the history of Nevada's Moapa Valley.

Sister Tobiasson intended to write one 250-page book. But, she uncovered enough interesting facts and stories to create a three-volume history called *Muddy Valley Reflections: 145 Years of Settlement*.

Jeff Cox, of Cox Printing in Mesa, who printed Sister Tobiasson's books, says a number of Arizona families have ties to Moapa Valley. The Bunker fam-

ily is one example of an Arizona family mentioned in Sister Tobiasson's books.

"The Bunkers bought a funeral home business in Las Vegas and then moved to Arizona," Jeff says, adding, "Since we printed the book, I've run into three or four families who are from [Moapa Valley]."

More than 750 copies of Volume One have been sold. Volumes Two and Three will be available August 1. Each includes nearly 700 pages of photos, anecdotes, records and plot maps of the four local cemeteries, census records and other memorabilia.

"My mother loved history," Sister Tobiasson says. "She got me started."

She began collecting news clippings and other material after she married a Moapa Valley native, Glade Tobiasson. She was fascinated by the area's history, beginning with Brigham Young's

call for Saints to settle there in 1865.

For the next 40 years, Sister Tobiasson's collection grew. She interviewed people who grew up in Moapa Valley, eventually filling over 800 cassettes tapes with their memories.

Sister Tobiasson's books include the history of St. Thomas, a town that disappeared when the Hoover Dam was built. Lake Mead formed over the town's site, forcing citizens to evacuate. She recalls one anecdote about this town that has a surprising ending.

"In 1868, a man died in St. Thomas because of the heat," she explains. "When the water came up in 1938, his body was moved to a cemetery in Overton." A great-grandson of the de-

ceased man heard about Sister Tobiasson's book and called her.

"The family had looked for him for 30 years," she says. "He called me on August 28, exactly 140 years to the day after [the ancestor] died." She believes it was no coincidence.

The comprehensive volumes have been purchased by people from across the country, including Arizonans with ties to Moapa Valley. Books are available directly from Sister Tobiasson by emailing beezymvdsi.com, writing to Virginia Lani Tobiasson, Box 4, Logandale, NV 89021, or calling 702-236-0635.



Photo by Jennifer Cox

Virginia "Beezy" Tobiasson has written a three-volume history of Moapa Valley, Nevada. Sister Tobiasson (left) celebrates its debut with Jeff Cox of Cox Printing and Georgia Hall (right) who typed the manuscript and provided sketches.

Gilbert Funeral Home Earns Award Continued from pg. 30

found I really loved what I was doing. I felt I had found my niche."

After receiving his licensing in Ohio, Chris and his family moved back to Arizona eight years ago. The Timothys purchased Falconer Funeral Home in June 2008.

"There's nothing I don't like about my work," Chris continues. "I love the technical work of preparing the remains and I love working with the family to help them understand and deal with what they are going through."

He believes one of his key roles is in helping families understand the phases of grief, and that they "need to allow themselves to grieve." He says this is true even for LDS Church members and others who believe their loved one still lives and they will be reunited with them someday. "You still grieve."

Falconer Funeral Home, at 251 W. Juniper Ave. in Gilbert, offers free consultations and tours of the "homey," award-winning facility. To learn more, call 480-892-9411 or visit www.falconerfuneralhome.com.



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"KING OF QUEEN CREEK"

retires after acquiring 320 building sites for the Church

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Over the past 14 years—from 1996 until his retirement last fall—Steve Hale, of the Southern Estates Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, was employed as the Real Estate Representative for the Church, the first to work in a satellite office outside of Salt Lake. From his Mesa office, Brother Hale had responsibility acquiring sites for Church buildings in the North America Southwest Area, including the states of Oklahoma, Texas, New

Mexico, Nevada and Arizona.

"We keep track of every property we're involved in and I've had over 320 sites I've worked on in those 14 years," Brother Hale says.

Steve worked alone for nine years until Doug Chessman was hired and they divided the workload, Doug taking the easternmost states and Steve retaining the responsibility for Arizona and Nevada.

When first approached about taking

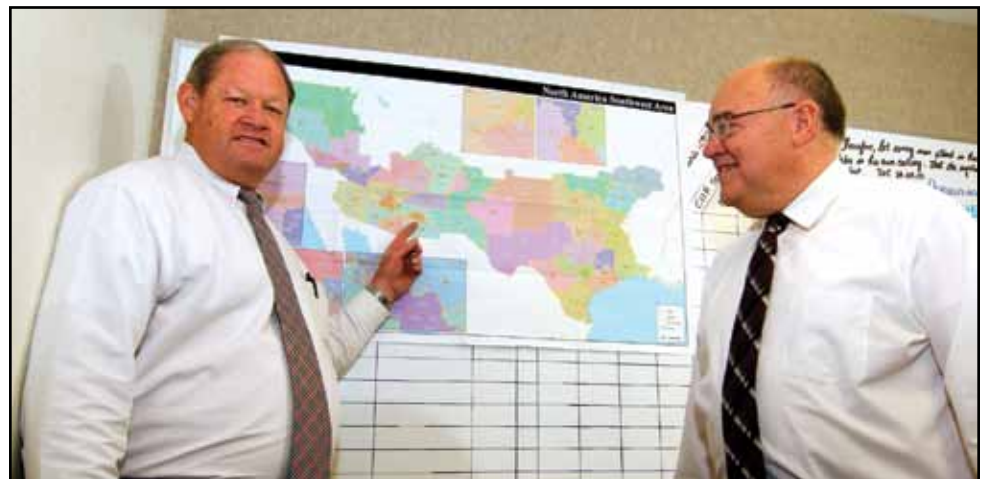


Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Steve Hale (left) recently retired after acquiring more than 300 properties for the Church as the Real Estate Representative for the North America Southwest Area for 14 years. For the last five or six years, Doug Chessman (right) has worked with Steve and will continue as his successor.

the job, Steve was skeptical.

He was a successful Arizona land broker at the time.

"I had to make it a matter of real deep thought," he says, but, ultimately, "My wife and I decided, 'If they really need us we will make changes in our lifestyle' and we did it."

He says, while every project has its challenges and needs, the growth in the Queen Creek area brought with it a unique set of circumstances.

"When the boom started hitting, Salt Lake didn't really understand how fast it was going to grow."

Brother Hale was in constant contact with the Queen Creek Stake President and made calls to Salt Lake, ultimately arranging for a thorough evaluation of the area.

"The Department of Temporal Affairs immediately authorized funding for 11 more chapel sites and told us to get them as soon as we could," Brother Hale says.

"We got the aerial photos together, began evaluating where we were going to need chapels most and doing site visits," he says. "Within two years 11 sites had been purchased."

That took care of the initial need, but other sites had to be acquired shortly thereafter.

"Queen Creek was the most talked about area of the Church because of the explosion of growth" and he was referred to as "the King of Queen Creek," the guy who made it happen in terms

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Continued on pg. 32

Stake Creates Good Will with Community Service Luncheon

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In a strong showing of community concern and commitment, representatives from more than 60 organizations joined together for the “First Annual Community Service Luncheon” in April.

The event was sponsored by the Mesa North Stake Public Affairs Council and had the theme: “Stand up to Serve—Reach out to Rescue.”

Among the groups attending were the Boys & Girls Club, the Center Against Family Violence, Child Crisis Center, Holy Temple Church, La Mesita, Save the Family and others.

Attendees found ample opportunities for networking and sharing of resources. Then, each had a few minutes to introduce their organizations, state their needs and ask for volunteer help. They also received a “Public Affairs Primer” handout explaining the goals for the event and some basic definitions of words like “stake,” “ward,” and “public affairs.”

“There was no proselytizing. This was not a missionary effort,” says Linda King, Mesa North Stake public affairs director. Instead, she says, it was a way to demonstrate good faith and to create camaraderie and coordinated efforts among various nonprofit organizations.

“The Church really encourages that,” Linda says.

“We’re encouraged to participate with other churches and community groups on projects that benefit and lift others. We’re told not to try to do it alone, but to do it with other people.”

She says such outreach efforts allow Church members to demonstrate their adherence to gospel principles of service and charity.

“It’s so important to work together like this so others don’t think we just talk a good talk.”

Luncheon attendees completed questionnaires, answering questions about their organizations’ immediate needs and the type of volunteer assistance they could use. Each of the wards in the Mesa North Stake will participate in the follow up and will help address the needs and complete identified projects.

“We’re going to do something for everyone who came at some time during the year,” says Sister King.

Sister King says the feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive.

The attendee from Autumn House, a New Leaf Domestic Violence Shelter wrote, “Thank you for including our organization in your First Annual Community Service Luncheon. We appreciate being acknowledged and to hear about the ways others are working to serve those in need. We appreciate your



Photo courtesy of Linda King

Dave Richins visits with Kathy Allen at the First Annual Community Service Luncheon, an event sponsored by Mesa North Stake that brought together representatives from 60 different community groups for networking and to discuss any needs for volunteers or other resources.

acknowledging and recognizing the many organizations within the community.”

“We feel this is a great format,” they continued. “Collaboration among agencies will only improve resources offered within our community.”

Another participant, Cheryl Anderson, from the Marc Center of Mesa, expressed gratitude, saying “... thank you and the church for all of the kind and much needed things that you all do to make our community a special place to life. You are truly valuable.

Kathy Allen, of the Porter Park Ward and a member of the Mesa North Stake public affairs committee says, “Everyone really seemed to like the networking part of it. It was a fabulous event that will foster so much good in the community.”

“We weren’t trying to convert anyone, we were just living the gospel by doing for others,” she adds.

“King of Queen Creek” Continued from pg. 32

of finding the strategic locations and negotiating the deals.

He says several factors have to be considered when selecting Church building sites.

“The Church wants to have the building visible, but not right in the way of things,” Brother Hale says.

At the same time, there are some “no-no’s” and things to stay away from, such as certain types of businesses.

“It needs to be a clean site, with enough utilities to service a chapel and enough water capacity to run a [fire] sprinkler system,” he says.

In every instance, he has relied on his own skills and expertise; yet, more importantly he has sought inspiration from the Lord.

“You go on the property, do a 360 and look all around you, and then say a prayer,” he says. “I’ve done that hundreds and hundreds of times, asking ‘Is this where you want this place to be?’”

“That’s the best thing about the job—knowing you aren’t buying sites for men or even for the Church, you are helping to build the Kingdom of our Lord.”

For Steve Hale, “It’s been a dramatically fun run to represent the Church in this way.”

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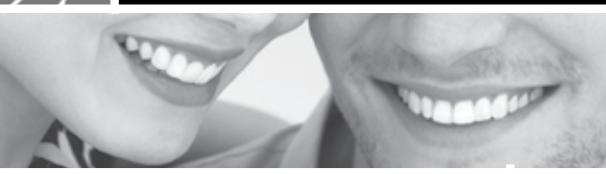
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Children & Parents Alike Enjoy High-Tech CHORE CHART SYSTEM

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

It's a high-tech way to help young people accomplish a goal this summer or for the school year in the fall. It's a chore tracking chart, a fun online reward system, a way to foster accountability and responsibility and a powerful tool to teach money management. And, it's all part of MyJobChart.com, a free, customizable website.

Praised by hundreds of parents, My Job Chart also earned a strong endorsement recently from well-known author and financial guru, Suze Orman, who

said: "This free online chore chart revolutionizes how you teach kids about money." She adds that the site can teach children "how to save, share and spend while reinforcing how to be responsible and value a dollar."

A tall order for one website, perhaps, but creator Gregg Murset and his wife, Kami, have seen those benefits and more from the online system he created a little over a year ago. In fact, he says, while it is capturing the attention of experts and is now used by



Photo courtesy of Gregg Murset

A screenshot from MyJobChart.com shows a sample of how the free, customizable website can be tailored to individual users, allowing them to track particular chores, music lessons or sports, while allowing parents the option of providing feedback and using the built-in reward system.

more than 75,000 young people, the real measure of its success is in what MyJobChart.com has done for individual users and their families.

Gregg Murset, a certified financial planner and a counselor in the bishopric of the Hawes Ward, Queen Creek Stake, designed MyJobChart.com with his own children in mind, to help them track their chores, practice, athletics and studies.

Gregg said their house, with six kids, ranging in age from 3 to 13, was "out of control. We tried everything from paper on the refrigerator to everything else. Kids are not into that these days."

"MyJobChart.com is technology," Brother Murset explains. "That's what kids like. It's what they really respond to."

On the site, icons make it possible for even the youngest children to use the online system, and MyJobChart.com allows parents and their children to personalize the list of chores and to use a built-in reward system. As the children complete their jobs, they earn a certain number of points, to be "saved" or "spent" right away to "purchase" a reward supplied by their parents, or to be "shared" as a donation to a charitable organization.

While My Job Chart does allow parents to access an Amazon store link where they can purchase reward items, the site is also set up to allow families to create "free" rewards—anything from extra TV time, one-on-one time with mom or dad or a family bike ride.

New users are joining the site daily, attracted to MyJobChart.com because it is free and easy to implement. Plus, Gregg says, My Job Chart "gets kids and parents talking."

"I've seen what My Job Chart has done for our kids over time as far as helping them accept responsibility and building aspects of their character and how these benefits accumulate."

Bottom line, Murset says, "MyJobChart.com is just a fun, easy way to instill work ethic and build character over time. And, it works."

To access the free My Job Chart website, visit www.MyJobChart.com.

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Honor Flight Arizona Sends Local WWII VET to Washington, DC, Memorial

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Thanks to Honor Flight Arizona, World War II veteran, Wayne Whitlock, 84, of the Elliot Ward, Gilbert Arizona Stake, was able to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, recently. It was a trip he wasn't sure he would be able to make. Honor Flight Arizona is part of the non-profit organization, Honor Flight Network, whose sole purpose is to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices. The group provides an all-expense-paid three-day tour of their memorial.

Wayne and his wife, Shirley, a former Arizona Eagle Forum President, are the parents of eight children and have 52 grandchildren. They have been involved in advancing the cause of freedom and patriotism their entire lives.

Like many young men did during World War II, Brother Whitlock enlisted as soon as he was out of high school. He chose the U.S. Navy and soon found himself assigned to the USS Fergus APA 82 (Amphibious Personnel Attack ship). He survived Kamikaze suicide bombers and many other horrors of wartime. Even so, Wayne says of those days, "It was my privilege and honor to serve the country that I love."

Wayne wants other veterans to have the opportunity to visit the WWII Memorial. Since its inception, the national Honor Flight has flown over 65,000 veterans to Washington, DC, but there are many still awaiting their turn. Brother Whitlock says he hopes many more vets can take the Honor Flight before they leave on a different flight from which they will not return.

Each veteran is accompanied by an able-bodied "guardian" for the tour. The guardians pay all of their own expenses. Wayne's son, David Whitlock, of the Greenfield 2nd Ward, Chandler East Stake, a middle-school history teacher at American Leadership Academy in Gilbert, quickly volunteered to make the trip with his dad.

"I was impressed that people would treat these WWII vets with this kind of honor for their service over 60 years ago. The trip was well organized. All the flights have doctors on board who pay their own way. Volunteers were at the airport to see them off. There were even volunteers to welcome them on layovers along the way, granting them a

'celebrity status.'"

Dave and his dad also visited the Viet Nam and Korean Memorials, as well as Arlington Cemetery and Fort McHenry.

"I'm thankful to all the volunteers who made this trip possible. The trip was wonderful, heartwarming and, at times, very emotional," says Wayne.

Wayne would love to hear from anyone able to help contribute funds or

from veterans in need of information about the project. His email is: wswhitlock@gmail.com. The story of how this project began, testimonials of veterans who have made the trip, video clips and more can be found at <http://honorflightaz.org/>.

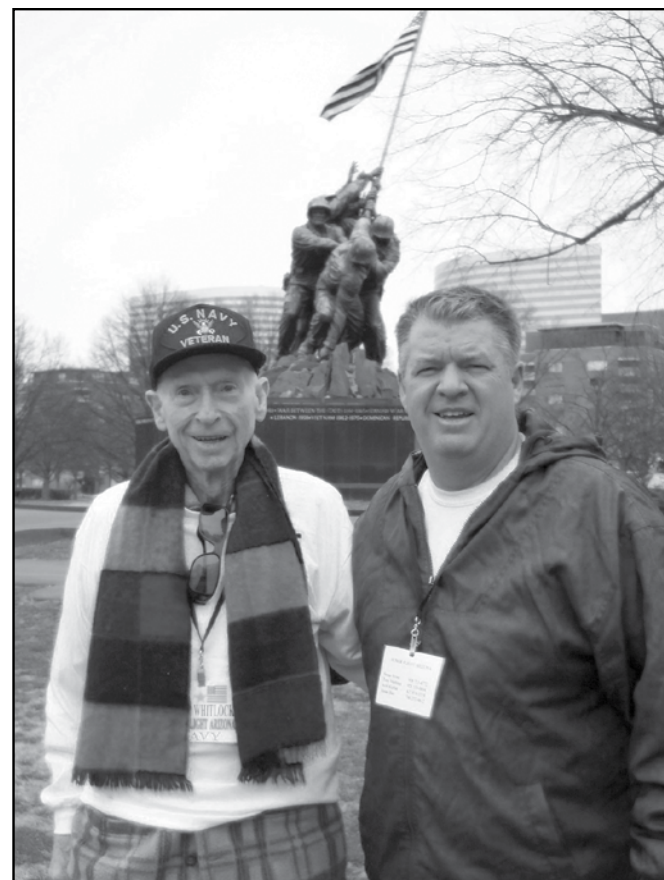


Photo courtesy of Wayne Whitlock

Eighty-four-year-old, WWII veteran, Wayne Whitlock, accompanied by his son, Dave Whitlock, visits monuments in Washington, DC, as part of an Honor Flight trip, designed to recognize the sacrifices of veterans like Wayne.

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Three Generations

Earn Young Womanhood Recognition Award

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Three generations—a young woman, her mother and her grandmother—were honored together recently as they each completed their own Personal Progress experiences to earn the Young Womanhood Recognition Award.

Naomi Wyeth, 17, a Laurel from the Cullumber Ward, Gilbert Stake, says it was fun for her to have the encouragement and support of her mom, Maureen Wyeth, and 93-year-old grandmother, Irene Christensen.

Maureen explains how it all came about, saying, "In one of the last Young Women General Broadcasts, they opened it up to other women and invited everyone to participate."

In the talk, "A Virtuous Life—Step by Step," Mary Cook, First Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency, referred specifically to the value of "virtue," and said, "We are inviting all young women, mothers, and, in fact, all women who desire to join us in this cause of virtue to complete the new Personal Progress experiences and project for the value of virtue."

Requirements for the Young Womanhood Recognition award include completing six "experiences" and one 10-hour project for each of the seven Young Women values. These experiences or projects are designed to help learn and practice applying each of these values.

The ultimate goal for Personal Progress, as stated by the First Presidency, is "to come unto Christ and 'stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places'" and to develop "feminine virtues, grow spiritually, and reach your divine potential."

Naomi, who will be a senior at Gilbert High School in the fall, says, "A lot of my goals were already finished. I just had little value things left to do."

She had completed several projects, including making a family cookbook, attending the temple every week to do baptisms for the dead, and participating in the Teens Helping Teens clothing and food drive. Some of the value experiences she had left required discussing certain scriptures, thoughts or feelings with someone close to her.



Photo courtesy of Maureen Wyeth

Naomi Wyeth, 17, (center) is joined by her mother, Maureen Wyeth (left) and grandmother, Irene Christensen, (right) as all three were honored together for earning the Young Womanhood Recognition Award.

"They didn't have a set time, but my mother and Naomi spent many hours visiting about their projects and goals," Maureen says. "My mother is a very wise woman. It has been the greatest blessing for Naomi to do this with her grandma."

"She is so funny. I love to hang out with her," Naomi says. "She has a lot of amazing stories I just love hearing them. She teaches everyone through stories."

While Irene provided a great deal of inspiration for Naomi and Maureen, the younger women enjoyed encouraging Irene as well as she worked on projects

of her own. At 93, Irene spent countless hours on her goal of compiling her family history.

"To see her working so hard and to be so excited about it kind of changed my perspective about [Personal Progress]," Naomi says.

Maureen says she gained a great deal from working to earn the award.

"It was good to remember how setting goals works and how quickly things can be accomplished when you have a goal."

"The experience has been a blessing for all three of us," she says.

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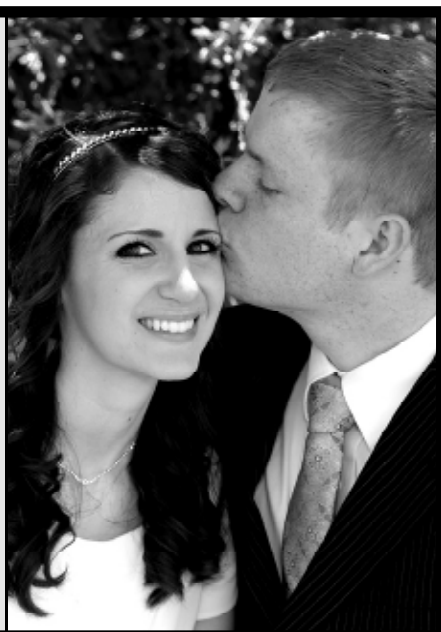
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Make A Difference this October

Last October, more than 3 million people nationwide participated in Make A Difference Day, an annual event known as "the most encompassing national day of helping others."

Make A Difference Day was created by USA Weekend Magazine and is scheduled for the last Saturday in October each year. Since its inception, millions of individuals and groups have identified local project and have rolled up their sleeves to participate in this national day of helping in their community.

LDS family groups, wards and stakes are among the groups who have participated in the past.

According to the Make A Difference Day website, projects can be large or small; "you can act alone or enlist your friends, family and co-workers."

The site suggests that the way to select a project is to simply, "look around your community. Are people hungry, homeless or ill? Are parks or schools dirty or neglected? No matter where you live, there's a need nearby."

If your family, ward or stake will participate in Make A Difference Day, *The Beehive* would like to hear from you. Tell us about your project by emailing info@arizonabeehive.com. Please include brief details about the project and contact information so we can call you if we'd like to know more.

Couple Turns Commitment to

Modesty

into a Successful Business

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Jim and Heather Butler opened Arizona Bridal Warehouse 10 years ago with the desire to sell modest wedding and prom dresses.

"There wasn't anyone else doing it at the time," says Jim. "We moved to Arizona and opened the store together because we saw the need."

The Butlers have now moved back to Utah, but Jim spends half the week in Arizona. "I do the operational side of the business," he says. "My wife can't be in the store much anymore because of our children, but she still sketches both temple-worthy and other designs for our dresses. It surprises a lot of people that Heather didn't go to school to be a fashion designer."

"I think that's given us an edge," says Heather. "Our business demands that we provide different styles for different types of women. I wasn't trained in one certain theme or concept. Because of that, we have flexibility."

Heather calls her role as designer a "happy accident" and it's something she does to give them more control in offering modest clothing. She credits her mother for her ability to visualize

colors, fabric types and overall balance. "When I couldn't find anything I wanted to wear, we'd create our own designs," says Heather.

"We have the largest selection of modest wedding gowns in the state," says Jim. "We also sell them to stores in Boise, Idaho Falls, stores in California and Utah."

They believe a primary reason their business has blossomed is because, in addition to featuring modest gowns, they are able to offer moderate prices as well.

At twirlprom.com they sell their modest prom dresses online.

Jim has written several books about the bridal business, and does consulting. "A store in Iran bought my book, and one in Russia," says Jim. "I give advice on how to grow their bridal business to stores around the U.S. and Canada who buy our dresses."

"At first, people didn't understand our desire to make sleeved wedding dresses," says Jim. "Others thought it was kind of weird, but we had to help them see the light."

Neither Jim nor Heather dreamed



Photo courtesy Jim Butler

Heather Butler designs exquisite bridal gowns carried by Arizona Bridal Warehouse and by many of the top bridal retailers across the United States and Canada.

they'd be designing and selling wedding dresses as a career—Jim was a pre-med major at BYU; Heather's focus was humanities, German, and music—but they both love what they're doing.

Heather says, "I love seeing my designs on a young lady and have her say, 'This is absolutely perfect.' That gives me tremendous joy to have them look so beautiful ... and it's such a joy to work with my husband."

Arizona Bridal Warehouse is located at 2450 W. Broadway Rd., Suite 120, in Mesa and may be reached by calling 480-517-0027. Store hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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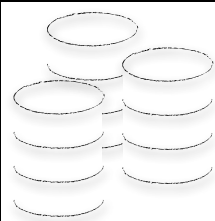
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Max & Jana Cox



Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Abundance has a Dark Side

It's odd. Possessions can become a millstone to drag around day to day. Perhaps we should erect a warning sign for those clamoring for our American lifestyle. Everywhere, people are talking about getting rid of their abundance, even in these rough economic times.

Recently, a young, financially successful couple discussed their shared frustrations over the burden of "things." In response, the two boxed up various items that graced their modest world and will either sell or give them away.

"We're not buying anything, but necessities anymore," they said. "We don't want to take care of things."

There was a time I never thought I'd have enough of anything. In a young family, living on an extremely

small budget, I struggled for years to afford used chests of drawers to hold my children's clothing. Much later, when things became easier, I hung onto those worn pieces. They were treasures; hard won; a remembrance of times where dreams were as simple as envisioning a place to store diapers. The children they served are now using those chests in their homes.

It's perplexing to reach the place where possessions no longer provide comfort. Doesn't matter how we sacrificed to get there, the point is, excess stuff, every bit of it, hangs on our backs or feels like it's tied around our necks.

There's a natural law about this condition. When something good is over done, it becomes a negative. For example, over-exercise can harm a

body. Some say it like this: "The truth of something depends on its relationship to a much larger whole." And, the truth is, the hard work of Americans has paid off, but we pay double when we indulge in quantity: Insurance, storage, maintenance, depreciation and finally, the cost to discard. Then, there is the greatest challenge of all: the mental price. Our minds are never free. They're tied to objects; vital energy is lost in the pull.

Perhaps you've heard about the "freegans." They're protestors, like the hippies in the '60s, who are taking the dropout mentality to the extreme, evidence that more and more people are getting abundance fever.

Freeigans (a blend of free and vegan) rummage through supermarkets and restaurant dumpsters to get

their meals. This isn't about whether they can afford food. It's a show of "defiance against the wasteful consumerist culture of the developed world." Some call it "ethical eating," but, I call it nuts.

We know that wise accumulation (unlike hoarding) is a gospel principle. Joe J. Christensen of the Quorum of the Seventy warns us to pay attention to where we devote our time which, of course, includes taking care of things.

You won't see my head in a dumpster, but I'm definitely tired of care-taking stuff, not to mention a prudent lifestyle offers an abundance of other healthy choices. I'm wondering about one thing, though. If we all cut back, what will happen to Costco and Walmart and all those jobs?

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Castle Floors

Offers Service, Value, Honesty and Education

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Castle Floors, owned by Dean and Peggy Merrell of Century Garden Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake, has been satisfying customers for 24 years. Castle Floors sells and installs carpet, ceramic and porcelain tiles, travertine, stone, Karndean (wood-look commercial-grade vinyl planks), sheet vinyl, wood floors and laminates. They offer carpet-cleaning service as well.

"We used to be Castle Carpets, but over the years we found our focus to be in other flooring, and we changed our name," says Dean. "The current trend in flooring has turned away from carpeting. We're doing a lot more luxury vinyl tiles and planks, which is the fastest growing segment of our business."

He's also noticed a rise in real wood flooring in recent years. "It's become more affordable because so much of it is being made in China," says Dean. "They're making some high-grade stuff

with European and Scandinavian technology. They sell wood at such ridiculously low prices, it's just hard to resist."

"Trends will always change, but I don't see them changing away from carpet as a permanent thing," Dean insists. "Carpet is too nice of a surface. It is soft, comfortable, and it's quiet. That's why it will always remain."

Castle Floors was just getting into business in 1987 when the market dropped. Brother Merrell vowed then to not be tied too closely to new construction. "Since then, we've focused more on fix-ups and remodels," he says.

Rather than new construction, many contractors are now buying, fixing and selling distressed properties. "It's a different kind of market," says Dean. "We've stayed busy with that."

Dean's love of flooring stemmed from his job cleaning carpets and furniture while attending BYU. "After a number of years, I trained my son,"



Photo by Tina Scott

At Castle Floors, members of the team—including (left to right) Daniel Farnsworth, Jim Haynes, Jeanne Haynes, and owner Dean Merrell—offer friendly service along with 50 years of cumulative knowledge to meet the needs of each customer.

says Dean. "He's on a mission right now and so we have another young man trained to clean carpets."

Brother Merrell built his business with hard work and by taking time to listen and thoroughly assess customers' needs. "We educate customers about the various types of flooring and steer them away from products that might wear too quickly or don't clean very easily."

Along with superior personal service and product knowledge, Castle Floors offers tremendous value. As a result, Dean says, "Way more than half the

people that come in have been referred by someone else," and, "Many former customers return years later to update and freshen with contemporary looks."

At Castle Floors, "our product knowledge is one of the best things we have to offer. We like to think we know what we're talking about after all these years."

Castle Floors is located at 4500 East Main Street, #3, in Mesa. They are open Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Castle Floors at 480-396-6956.

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Mesa Law Firm Builds on the **GOLDEN RULE**

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Founded by Paul Rowley in 1987, the law firm of Rowley, Chapman, Barney & Buntrock, Ltd, has grown from 2 employees to 35, using the principles of hard work, honesty and treating others fairly.

"We assist others, and represent them vigorously," says Brother Rowley, of Harris Second Ward, Mesa Central Stake. "We try to do our best in all that we do."

They represent all areas of legal service, including personal injury, family law, bankruptcy, business transactions, defense work and aviation law. "We have 10 lawyers, and we're full-service," says Paul. "All of our attorneys specialize in different areas."

Brother Rowley believes that treating people well and paying fairly encourages employees to work hard.

"Our culture within the firm is

consistent with the principles of the gospel," says Paul.

Because of this, they develop long-time relationships with their employees and their clients as well.

"My paralegal has been with me for 16 years," says Paul. "Many of my clients are friends, or they become my friends. We have a lot of repeat clients."

Aside from his duties as managing partner and senior litigation attorney, Paul is also a Maricopa County Superior Court judge pro tem and is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court. He won his first case there regarding grandparent's rights in 2001.

Released after six years as bishop, Brother Rowley is currently the Stake Young Single Adult Advisor. He's been married to his wife, Robin, for 35 years; they have five children and five grandchildren.



Photo courtesy of Rowley, Chapman, Barney & Buntrock, Ltd.

Partners in a Mesa law firm, (left to right) Shane Buntrock, Kenneth Barney, Paul Rowley, and Kevin Chapman, grow their firm by focusing on the principles of the Golden Rule, treating others as they would wish to be treated.

Brother Rowley volunteers with the international group, the Flying Samaritans. Every other month he flies to Baja Mexico for a weekend to help provide free medical and dental care.

"Not only am I a pilot, I'm a medical assistant," says Paul. "My father was a well-known OBGYN, and over the years I got my EMT."

As part of the volunteer Maricopa County Sheriff Divers Posse, Brother Rowley helps with recover victims of drowning or boat accidents.

"It's rewarding in the sense that it gives closure for the family," he says. "Sometimes the spirit guides us in what

we do and helps us make decisions."

In Flights for Life, an Arizona-based organization, Brother Rowley uses his plane two to three times a month to fly blood or organs to outlying areas like Tuba City, Yuma and Prescott.

"It's a lot," says Paul, "but there's a saying by Edwin Markham that's kind of a motto I've adopted over the years, 'There is a destiny which makes us brothers; none goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own.'"

Rowley, Chapman, Barney & Buntrock is located at 63 E. Main St., Suite 501, in Mesa.

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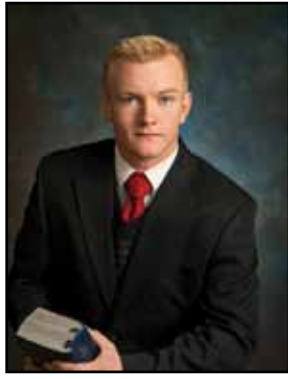


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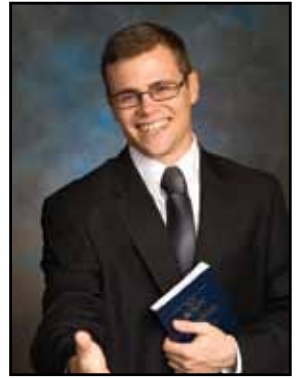
Nathan Rogers
Citrus Heights Ward
Idaho, Boise



Walker Sandstrom
Cooley Park Ward
El Salvador, San Salvador



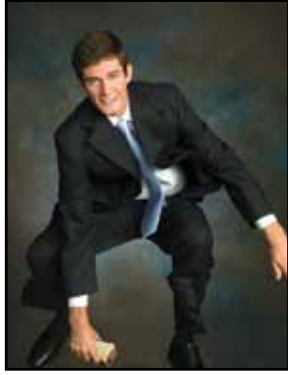
Michael Schnepf
Harmony Ward
The Baltic Mission



Dylan Shaw
Salt River Ward
Madagascar, Antananarivo



Brandon Tate
Mountain Park Ward
California, Ventura



Cameron Tidwell
Monte Rea Ward
California, Anaheim (Spanish)



Chandler Willman
Ridge Ward
Texas, Dallas (Spanish)



Steven Wilson
Evergreen Ward
Oklahoma, Tulsa



Jordan Woodard
Morningside Ward
Canada, Calgary



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Cameron Clerc
Troop 554
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Quinn Ellingson
Troop 674
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Ground Broken for Phoenix Arizona Temple

LDS Church representatives
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shovelfuls of dirt, marking the
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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo



Shown (left to right) are Mayor of the City of Surprise, Lyn Truitt; State Majority Leader, Steve Court; Secretary of State, Ken Bennett; Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy; Vice Mayor of Phoenix, Thelda Williams; Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department; Elder Michael D. Pickerd of the Seventy and Elder Jim L. Wright of the Seventy.